

# THE MORTAL KNOCK

**MARVEL** **8**  
LGY#794

RATED T+



EWING • CABAL • ABURTOV



**“ I SHOT AN ARROW INTO THE AIR,  
IT FELL TO EARTH, I KNEW NOT WHERE;  
FOR, SO SWIFTLY IT FLEW, THE SIGHT  
COULD NOT FOLLOW IT IN ITS FLIGHT.**

**I BREATHED A SONG INTO THE AIR,  
IT FELL TO EARTH, I KNEW NOT WHERE;  
FOR WHO HAS SIGHT SO KEEN AND STRONG,  
THAT IT CAN FOLLOW THE FLIGHT OF SONG?**

**LONG, LONG AFTERWARD, IN AN OAK  
I FOUND THE ARROW, STILL UNBROKE;  
AND THE SONG, FROM BEGINNING TO END,  
I FOUND AGAIN IN THE HEART OF A FRIEND.”**

**- “THE ARROW AND THE SONG,”  
HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW**



In **Asgard**, time had also passed.

The great wound of the All-Father's death had, if not **healed**, at least **closed**. The Golden Realm knew now that their great night would **pass**-- and the **sun** would rise again.

But this is not a tale of the Golden Realm.

This is the tale of an **arrow**.

MY BROTHER **THOR** WAS **GAEA'S** **MERCY**. HIS WEAPONS STRUCK ONLY FOR **GOOD** AGAINST **EVIL**.

BUT **THOR** IS **DEAD**. I AM THE **OTHER** SON OF THE EARTH AND SKY...

...AND MY WEAPONS ARE **INDIFFERENT**.











SKURGE HAS THE DOOM HE WANTED--AS YOU WILL HAVE YOURS. WOULD YOU KNOW THE COST OF THE MAGIC, ENCHANTRESS?

IT IS THE COST OF THE BOW--AND WHY I AM GOD OF THAT WEAPON ABOVE ALL OTHERS.



CHOKe THE LIFE FROM YOUR FOE-- MID-ACT, YOUR REGRET MAY LET THEM BREATHE. SWING THY SWORD--REGRET MAY TURN THE BLADE AND STRIKE WITH THE FLAT.

BUT WHEN THE ARROW IS IN FLIGHT, REGRET HAS NO POWER. YOUR FOE'S DEATH IS ASSURED, AND SO ARE THE CONSEQUENCES.



THE BOW IS THE WEAPON OF DARK DOOMS. THE BOW IS IRREVOCABLE.

AND THAT IS THE PRICE OF IT... THAT YOU CANNOT TAKE IT BACK.



OH, ULLR. YOU ARE BEHIND THE TIMES, I FEAR. I HAVE ALREADY DONE TOO MUCH THAT CANNOT BE TAKEN BACK.

WHAT IS ONE MORE DAMNATION IN AN IMMORTAL LIFETIME OF THEM?



BE CAREFUL, AMORA.

FATE MAY SURPRISE EVEN YOU.



OR I MAY SURPRISE IT.





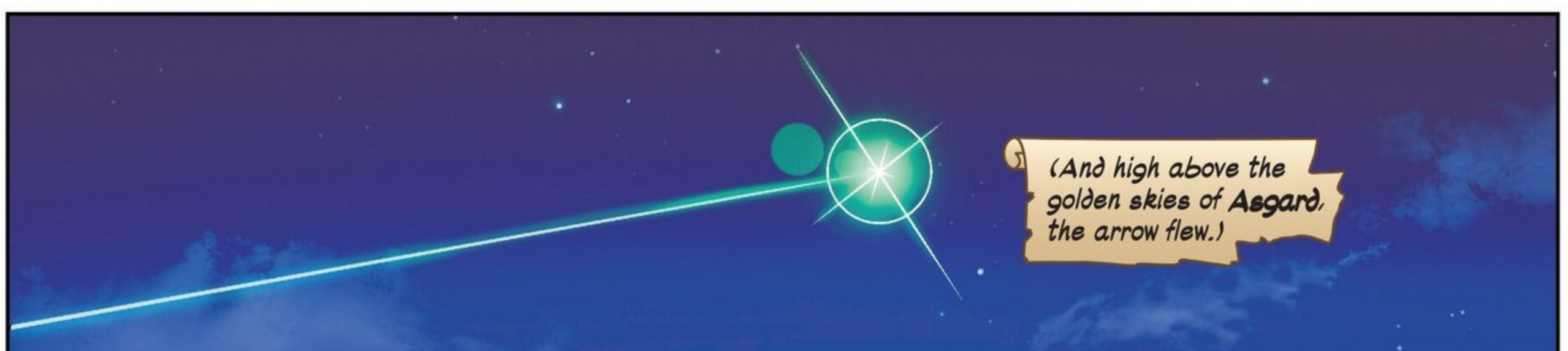
HOW DOES  
THE MORTAL  
POEM GO?

"I SHOT  
AN ARROW INTO  
THE AIR..."

And so the  
arrow flew.











LOKI WAS A POOR LEADER, BUT EVEN A FIGUREHEAD RULING JOTUNHEIM WAS BETTER THAN A POWER VACUUM. THINGS HAVE BEEN...CHAOTIC SINCE THE ABDICATION.

HAD THE WIZARD SKRYMIR WAITED EVEN A DAY BEFORE HIS ILL-FATED ASSAULT ON ASGARD, HE WOULD BE ON THE THRONE NOW.

INSTEAD, THE THRONE IS EMPTY...



...FOR PERHAPS ANOTHER MONTH.

SKRYMIR'S HEAD IS GROWING BACK, AFTER YOUR FATHER'S HAMMER SHATTERED IT. SOON HE WILL LIVE AGAIN--AS FIRST AMONG US. HIS POWER WILL GIVE HIM THE THRONE, IF IT REMAINS VACANT...

...AND THE THRONE WILL BOLSTER HIS POWER, FOR A WIZARD-KING IS GREATER FAR THAN A WIZARD.



AND THEN ALL HIS SENSELESS WARS BEGIN AGAIN-- AND ONLY A FOOL WANTS THAT.

IS THAT WHY YOU INVITED ME HERE, MOTHER TJARVVA? TO SMASH HIS HEAD A THIRD TIME?

NAY. 'TIS NOT THE STRENGTH OF THY ARM THAT HAS INSPIRED US, LORD MAGNI...BUT THE STRENGTH IN THY HEART.

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT--



--YOU DON'T WANT MAGNI ON THAT THRONE, DO YA?

'CAUSE AS LONG AS BLACKJACK O'HARE'S HIS MANAGER, THAT AIN'T NEVER GONNA HAPPEN--NOT FOR ASGARD, NOT FOR THIS ICEBOX!

CAPEESH?



(And across the lush forests of Vanaheim, the arrow flew.)





PLEASE  
EXCUSE MY FRIEND'S  
**BRUSQUENESS**. HE  
HAILS FROM A FAR-OFF  
STAR WHERE RABBITS  
SPEAK AS  
THEY FIND.

STILL, HE  
SPEAKS **TRUTH**--  
AND RAISES A  
**QUESTION**. YOU **YOURSELF**  
HAVE GREAT POWER AND  
WISDOM, MOTHER TJARVVA--  
WHY DO **YOU** NOT  
TAKE THE JOTUN  
THRONE?



BECAUSE  
THIS IS NOT THE  
THRONE THAT **NEEDS**  
ME--NOR AM **I** WHO  
THIS THRONE  
NEEDS.

WE **WISDOM-KEEPERS** OF  
JOTUNHEIM HAVE  
DELIBERATED AT **LENGTH**  
ON WHO IS THE BEST FIT  
FOR OUR COLD REALM,  
AND MADE OUR  
**CHOICE**...



YEAH?  
SO HOW COME  
THE BIG CHAIR'S  
STILL **EMPTY**,  
SISTER?

I FEAR **I**  
KNOW THE  
ANSWER--AND THE  
REASON FOR **OUR**  
INVOLVEMENT IN  
THE PROBLEMS  
OF **FROST**  
GIANTS.

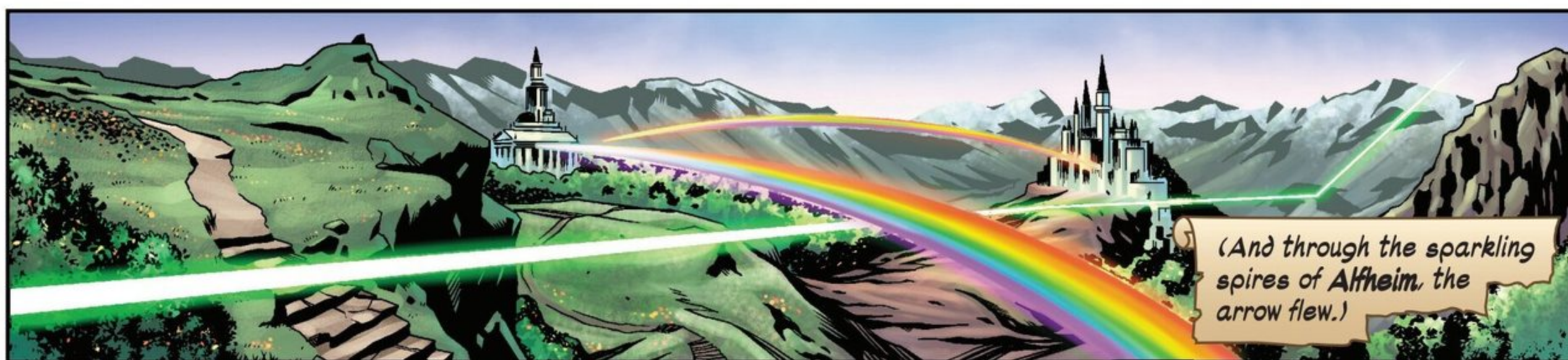
THE RULER-  
IN-WAITING OF  
**THIS** REALM IS  
A CAPTIVE IN  
ANOTHER...



YOU  
SHOW YOUR  
**WISDOM**, SON  
OF THOR.

THE **QUEST**--  
SHOULD TWO BOLD  
ADVENTURERS ACCEPT  
IT--IS TO A PLACE WHERE  
NO JOTUN COULD EVEN  
STAND UPON THE  
GROUND.

THE ONE  
FOE WE HOLD  
IN OUR CHILL  
ENMITY EVEN  
O'ER ASGARD  
HERSELF...



(And through the sparkling  
spires of **Alfheim**, the  
arrow flew.)



"...MUSPELHEIM!  
REALM OF FIRE  
AND FLAME!"

On,  
TOOTHGRINDER! ON,  
TOOTHGNASHER!

FOR PEACE  
AMONG REALMS--  
**WE RIDE  
THE BURNING  
ROAD!**

GA AH!

MY  
TAIL'S ON  
FIRE!



YOU *DID* SAY YOU'D PART  
WITH IT TO WARM UP  
A LITTLE...

NOT FUNNY,  
MAGS!

IF NOT FOR  
MY HANDY PORTABLE  
HEAT SHIELD, I'D BE  
ROAST RABBIT  
RIGHT NOW!



NOT TO MENTION THAT **BULLETS**  
TURN TO **MOLTEN LEAD** BEFORE  
THEY **HIT ANYTHING**--AND I CAN  
ONLY GET ONE SHOT FROM A  
**LASER BLASTER** BEFORE  
IT'S GOTTA COOL  
DOWN AGAIN!

FZAP

THEN MAKE  
EVERY SHOT YOU  
CAN FIRE **COUNT**,  
FRIEND BLACKJACK...



(And through the burning  
forges of Nidavellir, the  
arrow flew.)







...AND  
LEAVE THE REST  
TO ME!

YOWZA!  
FLAME-BEAST  
AT TWELVE  
O'CLOCK!

DON'T  
WORRY, BLACKJACK--  
I HAVE A PLAN!

TOOTHGNASHER,  
TOOTHGRINDER--

HHHSSSSSS!

--STOP  
IN THY  
TRACKS!

SHREEEE



YEEOOOWW!

THEY STOP--  
WE KEEP GOIN'!  
SOME PLAN!

HOW  
WAS THIS A  
GOOD IDEA,  
BIG GUY?

BECAUSE OF  
OUR LITTLE GIFT  
FROM JOTUNHEIM,  
BLACKJACK...



(And past the snowy  
wastes of Jotunheim,  
the arrow flew.)





THE  
SWORD OF  
SOLID SNOW!

THAT  
ALTERS SHAPE  
AND SIZE TO  
MEET THE  
NEED--

--AND  
IS EVERY  
FLAME-DEMON'S  
BANE!



SO ASK  
YOURSELVES,  
FIRE-DEMONS...



...WHO'S  
NEXT?



(And across the cloudy  
skies of Heaven, the  
arrow flew.)





FOR LET ME  
WARN THEE--YOU  
RISK LIFE AND LIMB  
WHEN YOU KEEP  
MAGNI, SON OF  
THOR, FROM  
HIS GOAL!

A HARDY  
COAL, THIS ONE!  
BUT HE WILL BURN  
LIKE ALL ELSE,  
IN THE--



THAT  
WAS THY LIMB,  
ROGUE! STAND  
DOWN--THY LIFE IS  
MORE PRECIOUS  
STILL!

--AAARRGGHH!

UNLIKE YOURS,  
KINDLING--



BLAM  
BLAM  
BLAM

GAAHH!  
I AM  
BLINDED!



WHAT  
IS THIS  
FOUL METAL  
OOZE...?



LEAD IN  
YOUR EYE,  
SUCKER!

GUESS  
BULLETS ARE  
GOOD FOR  
SOMETHING  
HERE AFTER  
ALL!



(And through the dark  
night of Svartalfheim,  
the arrow flew.)





HA! YOU SET THEM UP, FRIEND BLACKJACK--

--I SHALL KNOCK THEM DOWN!



SOUND THE RETREAT! THIS ACTION'S TOO COLD FOR US!

AYE--WE CANNOT KEEP UP THE GLACIAL PACE! FALL BACK, DEMONS OF MUSPELHEIM--



--HE'LL NEVER GET THROUGH THE FINAL DOOR ANYWAY!

'TIS CRAFTED FROM SOLID PHLOGISTONE--AND STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND A THOUSAND ASGARDIANS!

MAYHAP, HOTHEADED ONE--



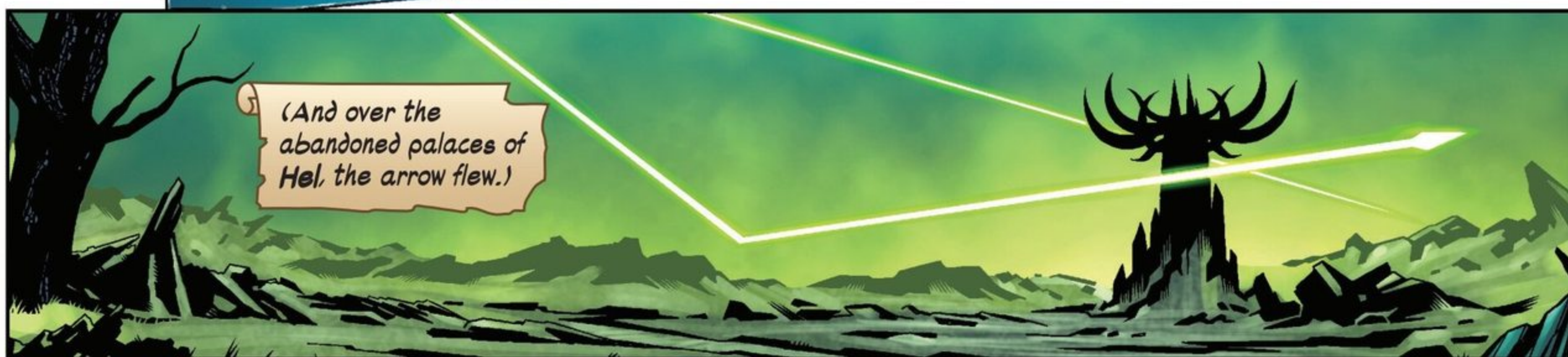
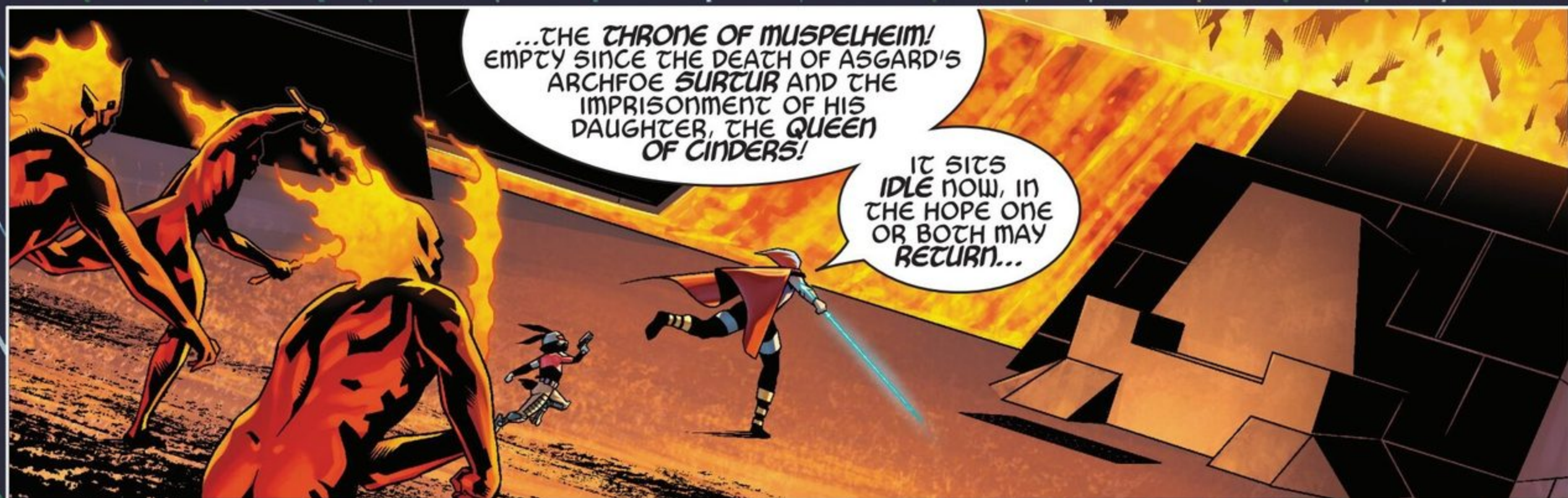
--BUT TO A SINGLE MAGNI, 'TIS AS MATCHWOOD!

AND BEYOND...

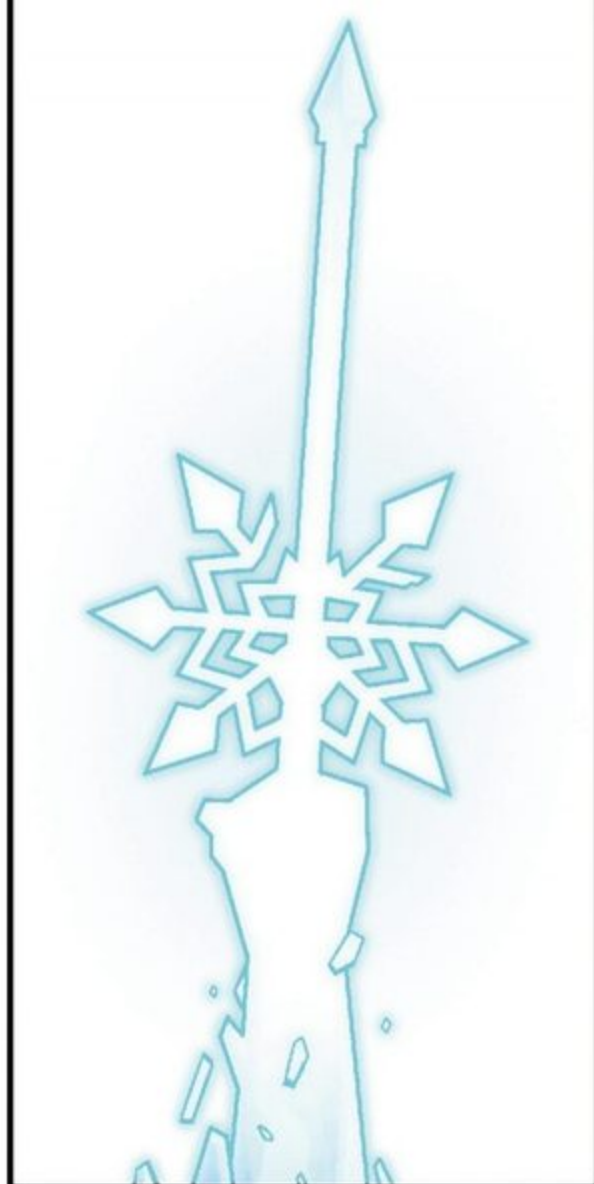
KRA-DOOOOM

(And through the thick fog of Niffleheim, the arrow flew.)

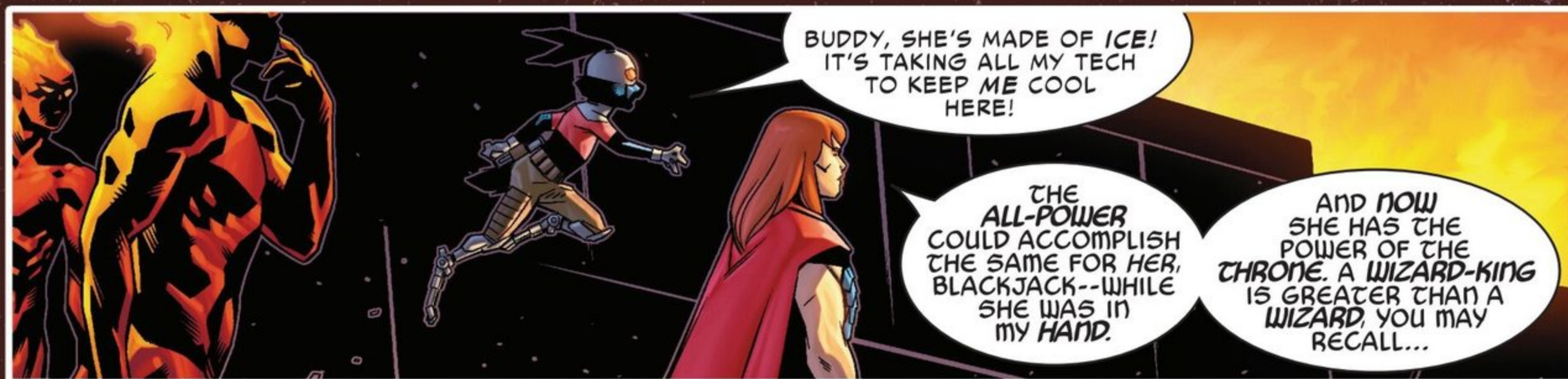












BUDDY, SHE'S MADE OF ICE!  
IT'S TAKING ALL MY TECH  
TO KEEP ME COOL  
HERE!

THE  
ALL-POWER  
COULD ACCOMPLISH  
THE SAME FOR HER,  
BLACKJACK--WHILE  
SHE WAS IN  
MY HAND.

AND NOW  
SHE HAS THE  
POWER OF THE  
THRONE. A WIZARD-KING  
IS GREATER THAN A  
WIZARD. YOU MAY  
RECALL...



...AND A  
WITCH-QUEEN  
IS COLDER THAN  
A WITCH.

'TIS SO. NOW  
I HAVE THE POWER  
OF THE THRONE,  
NONE WILL MOVE  
ME FROM IT.

AND MY  
FIRST EDICT IS  
TO COOL ANCIENT  
TEMPERS--AND  
HEAL ANCIENT  
WOUNDS.



THERE IS  
ONE SEALED IN  
THE DUNGEON BELOW  
THE THRONE FOR  
CENTURIES--JAILED  
FOR THE CRIME OF  
BEGGING SURTUR'S  
COMPASSION, AND  
NE'ER FREED.

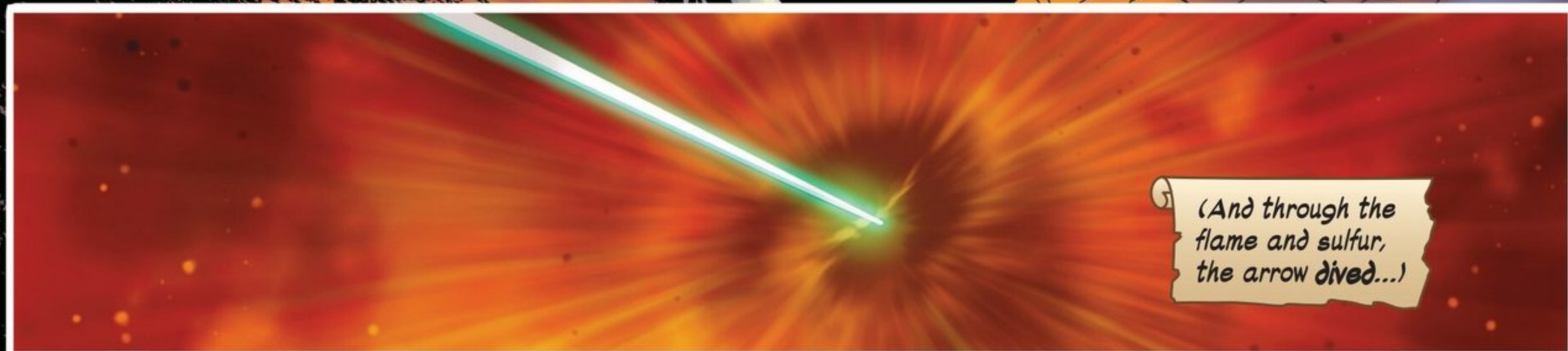
LET THEM  
BE FREED NOW!  
LET THE FLAME  
OF HOSPITALITY  
AGAIN WALK  
THE LAND!



I CALL  
ON ARINN--  
REGENT OF  
THE HEARTH'S  
FIRE!

GREETINGS,  
my FRIENDS--AND  
my JAILERS ALSO. TO  
YOU ALL, I WISH  
ONLY JOY...

AND A  
LONG, WARM  
LIFE.



(And through the  
flame and sulfur,  
the arrow dived...)





I GET IT!

IF TJARVVA'S GONNA BE QUEEN OF MUSPELHEIM-- WE NEED A KING OF JOTUNHEIM, RIGHT?



REGENT OF JOTUNHEIM.

RIGHT, RIGHT. SORRY.

A WARM FIRE WILL BURN IN THE DEEPEST COLD, AND COOL REASON WILL PREVAIL IN THE MIDST OF THE FLAMES.

JOTUNHEIM HAS AGREED TO IT. WILL MUSPELHEIM DO LIKEWISE...?



FOR A TIME, PERHAPS. UNTIL SURTUR OR SINDR TAKE IT FROM YOU.

WE DO HAVE COMMON ENEMIES WITH JOTUNHEIM...

THIS WAS NOT A PLAN MADE IN THE SPIRIT OF ENMITY. DO NOT MAKE ME REGRET THIS ADVENTURE...



HEY! LET'S TAKE "YES" FOR AN ANSWER HERE! GLORKUS-IX WASN'T BUILT IN A STANDARD DAY, Y'KNOW?

YOU ARE RIGHT, BLACKJACK-- AS ALWAYS. I MUST NOT LOOK A CLEAN VICTORY IN THE MOUTH.



THAT'S THE SPIRIT! NOBODY DIED, RIGHT?

ALL'S WELL THAT--

And at the end of its long journey...



...the arrow struck.



BLACKJACK?

"I SHOT AN ARROW INTO THE AIR..."





...AND  
WHEN IT FELL,  
IT STRUCK  
A HARE.

DEATH.

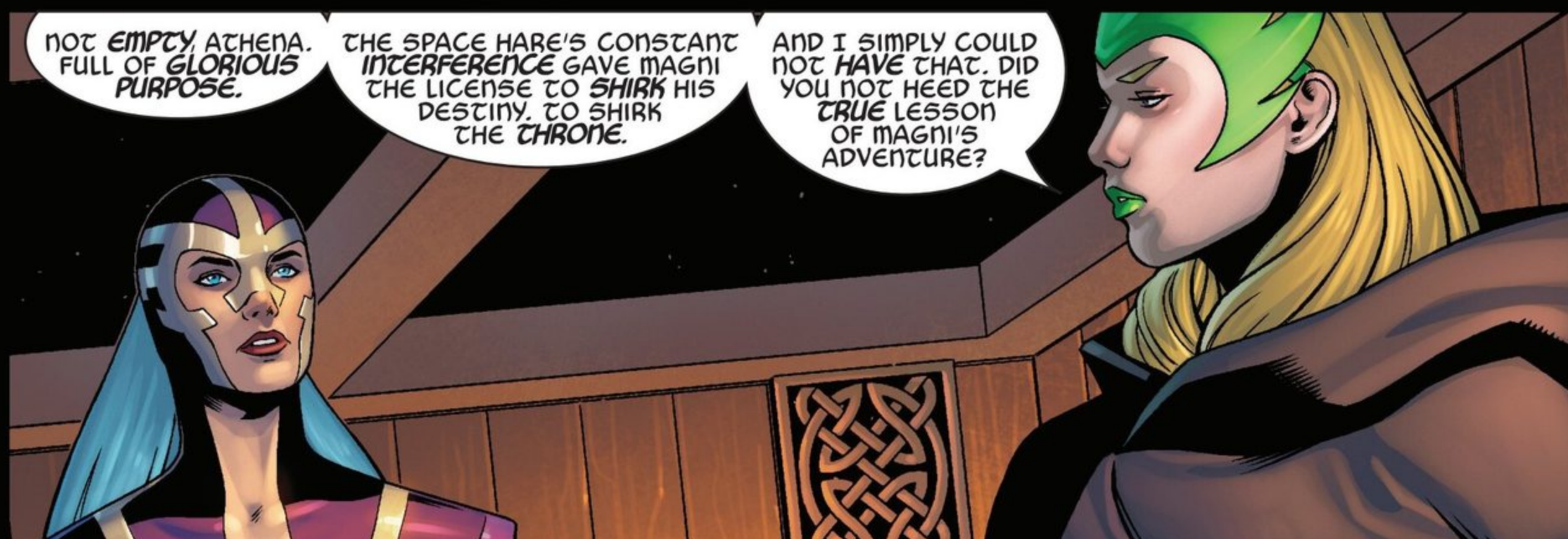
AND A DOOM  
TOMORROW.



I AM WELL  
PAID...

WHY THE  
RABBIT? WHY  
NOT MAGNI  
HIMSELF?

HE IS THE  
ONE WITH THE  
ALL-POWER--THE  
POWER YOU CRAVE, THAT  
MAY REVERT TO YOU  
AT HIS DEATH. THIS  
FEELS LIKE EMPTY  
CRUELTY...



NOT *EMPTY*, ATHENA.  
FULL OF *GLORIOUS*  
PURPOSE.

THE SPACE HARE'S CONSTANT  
*INTERFERENCE* GAVE MAGNI  
THE LICENSE TO *SHIRK* HIS  
DESTINY. TO *SHIRK*  
THE *THRONE*.

AND I SIMPLY COULD  
NOT *HAVE* THAT. DID  
YOU NOT HEED THE  
*TRUE* LESSON  
OF MAGNI'S  
ADVENTURE?



A WIZARD-KING  
IS *GREATER* THAN  
A WIZARD. THE *THRONE*  
AUGMENTS THE  
MAGIC.

WHAT GOOD  
IS THE ALL-POWER  
IF I CANNOT WIELD  
IT AS THE  
ALL-MOTHER?

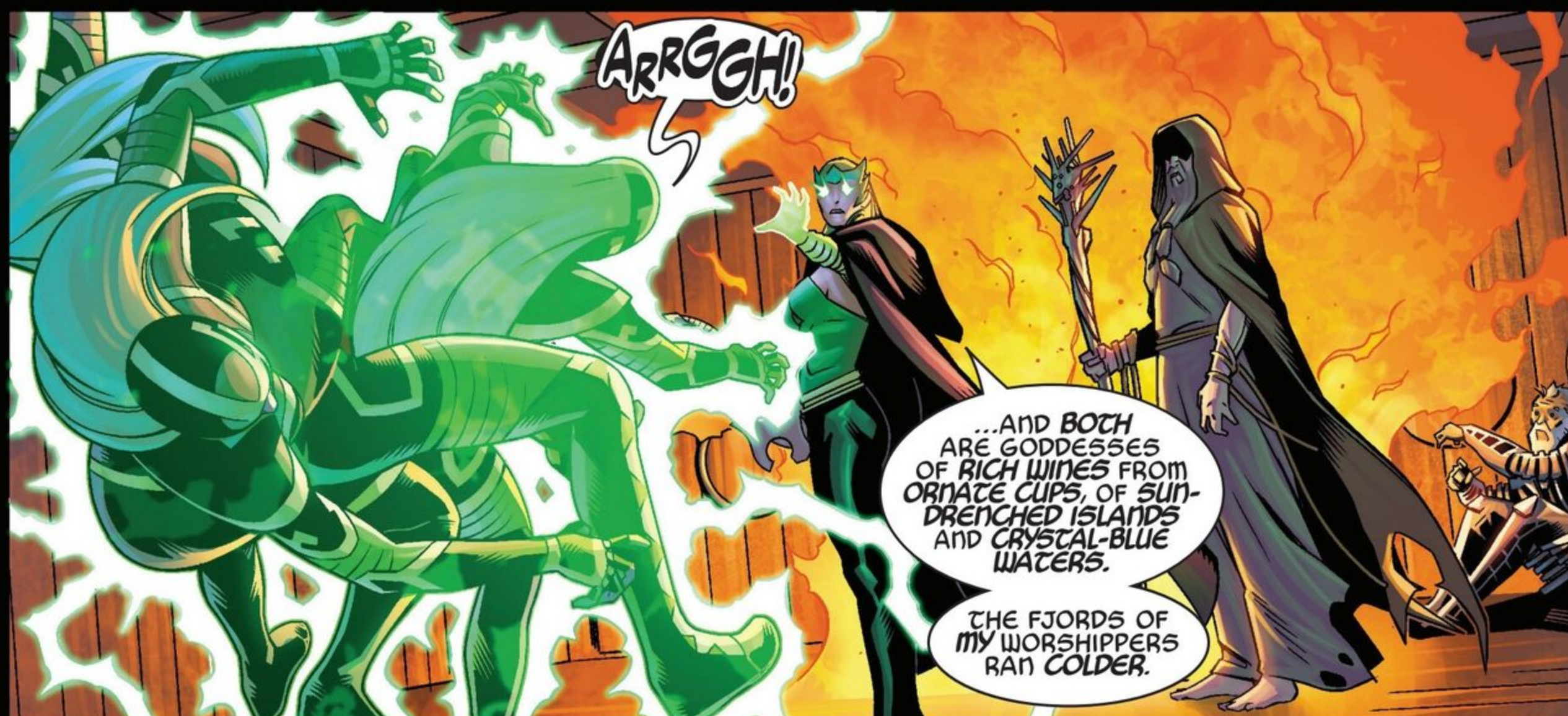
AND EVEN  
THAT SEEMS  
A SMALL GOAL  
TO ME NOW.



THERE  
ARE *GREATER*  
POWERS TO  
BE TAKEN.

IN REALMS  
THAT ARE NOT  
REALMS...







"...AND ALL ASGARD  
WILL REJOICE."



# A TRAGIC TALE OF ASGARD

AL EWING  
WRITER

JUANN CABAL  
ARTIST

JESUS ABURTUV  
COLOR ARTIST

VC's JOE SABINO  
LETTERER

ALEX ROSS  
COVER ARTIST

WHILLE PORTACIO & ALEX SINCLAIR; BENGAL; DAVE WACHTER  
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

DANNY KHAZEM ASSOCIATE EDITOR

WIL MOSS EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF

THOR CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY



# IF THEY BE WORDY

Howdy, Hammer-Heads, and welcome to another MIGHTY THOR LETTER-COLUMN! I'm going to make you all wait for the new name of the place – partly for the surprise, and partly because we've had some sad news which puts a grim slant on the name choice.

A few days ago at the time of writing, one of the greatest Thor artists of all time, Sal Buscema, sadly passed away.

It's hard to talk about Buscema's impact on American comics without understating it, given the depth and width of his footprint; easier to talk about my personal experience with his art. The first U.S. Hulk comic I encountered in a U.K. newsagents was drawn by him--a moody, psychedelic tale of a mindless Hulk lost at a dimensional crossroads, becoming a toy for an alien child. This was a Hulk utterly unlike the character I'd absorbed through cultural osmosis and TV cartoons. I'd go as far to say that my first real experience of Hulk as horror was staring at Buscema's craggy, wrinkled post-Banner take--mysterious and mute, a twisted, sour-lemon version of the friendlier Hulk he'd drawn so many times.

As if that wasn't influence enough, I encountered him next during Simonson's run on THOR – first with the issue that introduced Tiwaz/Buri (which clearly left a mark) and a little later as Simonson's chosen successor on art at the climax of the run, shepherding one of the first great comic runs I encountered to a perfect finish.

So when I think of Buscema, it's natural to think of all the joy and excitement he brought to my childhood, and of how his mastery of comic art and craft helped to light a flame in me that's yet to go out--and given the length and breadth of his career, I know I'm far from alone in that. Thank you for the wonderful stories, Mr. Buscema, from all of us.

Now, let's dive into the mailbag...

Hello, Mr. Ewing!

I have to say, I have been absolutely thrilled by your work on the IMMORTAL and now the MORTAL THOR. It feels like I'm reading new mythology being created, and I couldn't be happier. I did have a question regarding another character who's popped into Asgard recently, however: Doctor Strange.

I know in IMMORTAL THOR that you mentioned Asgard no longer having a master magician, and now it seems that Doctor Strange has ascended to the title of Asgard's Sorcerer Supreme in his own book. I wanted to ask a bit about the behind the scenes of how that all got coordinated and if we can expect a Strange appearance at any point in the MORTAL THOR? I loved your take on Doc in DEFENDERS, so it'd be delightful.

Anyway, enough of my loquaciousness, and until Odin sings "I've Got My Eye On You," Make Mine Marvel!

From the halls of Alfheim,  
Maanas

**I will say that a Strange appearance is in the cards for MORTAL THOR--as for how it came to be, most of the coordination happened during writers' retreats, which is where the idea of Doctor Strange being marooned in the Now-Nine Realms first came to be. I have checked over what Doctor Strange will be up to, as well, just to make sure it won't conflict with our TALES OF ASGARD issues.**

Re: MORTAL THOR Letters Page,

I'm an old Thor reader, old enough that I started with THOR #199, my first issue, when I was in first grade. I love what you've been doing with IMMORTAL and MORTAL THOR, but Jane Foster has been curiously almost absent from your run. It is true that Sif is Thor's love in song and in story, but Marvel's Thor is not mythology's Thor 100%. And Jane Foster has always been a big anchor to the mortal world and the original piece of this Marvel version of Thor. In the original Lee/Kirby run, the Jane Foster/Thor love was so central to the comic until Odin seemed to finally get his way and separated them and got Thor with Sif. I haven't read Jason Aaron's run, but from what I've seen, he seemed to leave everything in place for Thor and Jane to finally be together. I would have thought you would have run with it, but

after Thor's declaration to Sif before dying, I don't know.

The story of Jane Foster is one where she had to ultimately become a goddess in order to be worthy of Thor's love, so she is unfairly tested by Odin and clearly set up for failure. With only brand-new flight powers that she didn't even have the experience to properly handle, she had to defeat a foe that took the combined might of experienced gods Thor and Sif to vanquish. What Aaron does--turning her into a Thor and finally into a Valkyrie--is remove her perceived unworthiness of Thor's love by Asgardian standards, as she shows that she can be as brave and noble as any Asgardian. Even now, a Valkyrie, she will always be a human transformed, what we thought Don Blake was when Marvel Thor is first introduced. The stories have changed so that Beta Ray Bill was Thor in the Avengers. So turning Jane back into a human should be the proper course. If Thor was never unworthy or even Don Blake to begin with, then Jane never even worked for Don Blake, so her story should have changed too, as her story is completely tied up and dependent on Thor's story on Earth. Is Jane and Sigurd as mortal lovers rewriting their story together a possibility? I certainly would love to see that!

As for the letters page's new title, why not go back to the original "The Hammer Strikes"? With the way Sigurd is handling that baby, it seems only appropriate. Nuff said!

Etienne

**Thanks, Etienne! Jane's drawn the short straw a little this time--on the one hand, I became more interested in Sif and Amora as potential love interests for Thor, and on the other, a super-hero girlfriend seems against the tone I'm trying to set with Sigurd. But I'm hoping I can bring her in for a guest appearance, since you raise an interesting question--how does she square her Valkyrie powers with what she remembers of history? It might be fun to find out.**

Ah. A lettercol title thee need? Well, based on Ewing's words, it should be called "If They be Lumpy," of course. Referring to both Sigurd's lump hammer and the general lumpiness of us mere mortals. Such would also make

possible the long-clamored-for *Leave it to Beaver/Thor* crossover the multitudes desire--nay--demand!

Aye verily!  
Roman Stadler, PMM  
Bellingham, WA

**A good suggestion, Roman, but unfortunately, it took some lumps from the competition...**

Hello, Mr. Ewing!

I got a new letters page idea...Af-Thor Words. (Afterward...no? Hopefully it sticks, haha, but anyway!) I loved IMMORTAL THOR! It was perfect timing because I was on my Norse mythology kick and there were soooo many references! I was loving it!

Now onto MORTAL THOR, I'm not the biggest fan of Thor being human and powerless! But here I am reading it! And enjoying it!!! Will we see an epic showdown of "Donald Blake's Revenge" for what Thor did to him in Cates' run? I'm excited! For whatever is to come!

Michael G.  
Tucson, AZ

**Donald Blake is definitely looking for vengeance--but has he drawn down the wrath of Dario Agger in pursuit of it? Find out in upcoming issues...**

Mr. Ewing,

Hey, I've been loving your MORTAL THOR series so far! I've been catching up on IMMORTAL THOR, but I'm excited to say the MORTAL THOR series is the first series I've consistently collected! With that being said, when is my beloved Beta Ray Bill going to arrive? I loved hearing him mentioned in the first issue of the MORTAL THOR, but I need to see him in the horse-faced flesh! Other than the absence of the one and only hammer bro of Thor, I'm absolutely hooked on your amazing writing and stellar Alex Ross' generational artwork!

Jett Lee

**Beta Ray Bill is another character I think needs to make a cameo in this book... But we do have some big, BIG Bill-sized plans later in the year, from a direction you may not suspect.**

Dear Mr. Ewing,

I eagerly await every new installment of your Thor saga. I heard your mailbag needs a new name. Will "Postmortem

Postcards" work? I've also got "Snuff Said!," although that might be a bit tasteless.

Look after yourself,  
Lachlan Redfern

**Postmortem Postcards is good, Lachlan--but I decided POST MORTEM was better! But for the use of half of your suggestion, half of a MIGHTY MARVEL NO-PRIZE will be mailed out immediately and invisibly by express no-mail to you, to lurk intangibly somewhere in the shadows of your home! Be careful, they're more dangerous when wounded.**

Yea Verily,

'Tis time to name a "new" letters page. Very exciting time for a bold new direction.

Whom the God would destroy, thy first-class mail:

- This Mortal Toil
- For What It's Worth...
- The Midgardian!
- Midgard Reign Storm
- The Moral Mortality

Longtime fanboy  
(first THOR issue was #145),  
John Panno  
Addison, IL

**These are all bold, new directions, John, but sadly not quite on the money. Take heart, though--at the rate Sigurd is making enemies, we may need a new letter-column title sooner than anyone thinks...**

Mr. Ewing,

Hello! Since "If They Be Wordy" needs a new name, maybe we could call it "Word You Know More?" I think it would be appropriate for the part of the story we're in, and since Loki--as the skald--says "Would you know more?" quite often.

I'm a huge fan, and thank you so much for getting Thor right! You treat him, and all the characters you write, with such respect. I also love how deeply you understand Marvel's lore and history. The decision to have Sigurd use a hammer with a bungee cord is such a cool way to let Thor still throw and call back his hammer. I'm really excited for the new adventures Thor is about to go on and to see where he'll be by the end!

Will Speer

**Thank you so much, Will! The bungee cord was one of the first things I thought of when I decided to pull the trigger on the MORTAL THOR, so I'm really glad so many people like it.**

I've been intrigued by Thor's journey, following Al Ewing over from IMMORTAL HULK, but I have to admit, I enjoyed this tale of Asgard even more than the alleged central character. The attention to continuity is appreciated, as it helps to add meaning and is also in turn used to build upon the current happenings. It's nice to see Enchantress instead of Loki for a change in the role of manipulator. And in case he never gets tired of hearing it, the Alex Ross covers are stellar. Let's see even more of the wonder of Asgard in the background.

For letter-column suggestions, I'm having trouble deciding between "The Raven's Reach," "Hammer Mail" or "The Bifrost Briefs," so I leave the choice in your hands.

Thanks for the stories,  
Travis Pullen  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**Bifrost Briefs nearly made it, Travis, but with the Bifrost currently in bits, briefs would never reach us across it--and then we'd never get your kind words about Alex's amazing covers!**

Al, Juann and Mattia,

MORTAL THOR #4 was incredible. I'm really loving this run of Thor across Midgard and Asgard. The story, artwork and colors were absolutely spot-on, and I am anxiously awaiting the next issue. It's an enjoyable read, and it's refreshing to stay in the Thor universe without having to face a cosmic disaster--at least for now. How about "Words From Midgard" or the "Sigurd and Magni Journal" for the letter column?

Thank you!  
Joe Venzor  
El Paso, Texas

**Thanks so much, Joe! And thank you for the letter-column titles...but the decision has now been made, and POST MORTEM is the place for more mighty missives!**

Next issue, we're back with Sigurd as he takes on a villain more powerful than any he's faced yet--armed only with a new hammer, his wits, and a few good friends. See you then--and until Odin marches into Muspelheim to tell them to turn that darn thermostat down and put on a sweater, hold your hammers high!

--Al

**WE WANT YOUR LETTERS! TO SEE THEM ANSWERED BY AL EWING HIMSELF, WRITE US AT [MHEROES@MARVEL.COM](mailto:MHEROES@MARVEL.COM), AND BE SURE TO MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT"!**



**NEXT ISSUE:**



**THE RADIOACTIVE MAN!**

- Radiation can pass through solid walls. Radiation destroys human tissue. Radiation cannot be hit with a piece of wood and metal.
- Sigurd Jarlson is only human. Dr. Chen Lu, the Radioactive Man, is not.
- Somewhere in the city, a man with a hammer faces a fight he cannot win...